

Funding Will Strengthen History Education in Central NJ U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today announced a \$946,425 federal education grant for Central New Jersey public schools through the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grants Program. Ewing Public Schools will run the program for five years in consortium with East Windsor Regional Schools, Northern Burlington County Regional Schools, Princeton Regional Schools, and Trenton Public Schools. The program is critical to raising student achievement by improving teachers' understanding of traditional U.S. history. For five years, a group of local teachers will study substantive historical content with top historians. They will research the political, economic, social and cultural issues that have shaped and defined the nation. Participating teachers will learn new tools of content and technique, which they will bring back to the community.

"Teachers are one of the most important determinants of a student's success, and the best teachers are those who have a deep appreciation, passion, and understanding of their subject matter," Holt said. "I am delighted that this grant will be coming to Central New Jersey to strengthen history education in our schools by providing our teachers with world class professional development. For reasons of economics, tourism, and state pride, it's important to remember that New Jersey's future is its past."

The program will include seminars and training programs for middle and high-school teachers, with each year specifically covering a different critical period in American History. The first year will cover the American Revolution, the Critical Period, and the debate over and ratification of the proposed Constitution of 1787; the second year will cover The Federalist Era, Jeffersonian Republicanism, John Marshall and Constitutional Nationalism, and Jacksonian Democracy (1789-1845); the third year will cover the Civil War and Reconstruction (1845-1876); and fourth year will cover – the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, American Empire, and the Great War (1877-1920); and the fifth year will cover the New Deal, World War II and the Early Cold War, Vietnam and the End of the Cold War, and the Constitution and the Culture War.

More information on the program can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/index.html>